

## Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL KADUNA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

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FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

FOL REPEAT USUN 330 ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMMAN CAIRO DAMASCUS  
JIDDA TEL AVIV JERUSALEM DTD 4 FEB.

QUOTE

UNCLAS USUN 2330

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, XF

SUBJ: UN PRESS RELEASE ON WALDHEIM'S CAIRO NEWS CONFERENCE  
FEB. 3

1. UN OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION (OPI) ISSUED RELEASE  
FEBRUARY 4 ON SYG WALDHEIM'S REMARKS TO PRESS AND SCHEDULE  
ON SECOND DAY OF HIS CAIRO VISIT, FEBRUARY 3 INCLUDING  
MEETING WITH FM FAHMY, LUNCHEON GIVEN BY SPEAKER OF  
EGYPTIAN PARLIAMENT, AND DINNER PM SALEM.

2. FOLLOWING HIS MEETING ON FEBRUARY 3 WITH FM FAHMY, THE  
SECRETARY GENERAL MET WITH EGYPTIAN AND FOREIGN CORRES-  
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PONDENTS. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS AS RELEASED BY OPI AS  
FOLLOWS:

3. QUOTE: BEGIN TEXT.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SAID HE HAD EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS  
WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY COVERING PRACTICALLY ALL ASPECTS

OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. THE TALKS WERE HELD "IN A VERY FRIENDLY ATMOPSHERE" AND "WERE VERY USEFUL FOR MY EFFORTS TO CLARIFY THE SITUATION AND OBTAIN THE POSITION OF THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT".

IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION, HE STATED: "WE ALSO DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITIES CONCERNING THE DATE OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. BUT IT IS EVIDENT THAT THIS WILL DEPEND ON THE OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATIONS. I THINK THE CONFERENCE HAS TO BE WELL PREPARED SO THAT IT IS A SUCCESS."

ASKED IF THE SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD MEET ON 1 MARCH, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL REPLIED THAT 1 MARCH WAS THE DEAD-LINE FOR HIS REPORT. THE SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD THEN DECIDE WHEN TO MEET AND DISCUSS THE REPORT AND TAKE THE NECESSARY DECISIONS.

HE WAS ASKED WHETHER HE FELT, FROM HIS TALKS WITH UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE, THAT THE NEW AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION WAS REALLY ANXIOUS TO HAVE THE CONFERENCE RECONVENE BEFORE THE END OF MARCH. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ANSWERED THAT HIS IMPRESSION WAS THAT THE UNITED STATES "IS VERY INTERESTED IN AN EARLY RESUMPTION OF THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS". HE ADDED: "EVERYBODY IS INTERESTED IN THE RESUMPTION OF THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. BUT WE STILL HAVE NOT REACHED AGREEMENT ON THE PROCEDURE, AND WE HAVE TO SETTLE THIS MATTER."

MR. WALDHEIM WAS ASKED WHETHER, IN HIS TALKS WITH THE PARTIES  
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CONCERNED, INCLUDING THE CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, HE GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE WOULD BE STRONG OBJECTION TO PARTICIPATION BY THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO), AS THE ARAB SIDE WAS DEMANDING. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL REPLIED THAT "THIS IS ONE OF THE CRUCIAL PROBLEMS, THIS IS ONE OF THE MAIN DIFFICULTIES". THE ARAB SIDE HAD WISHED PLO PARTICIPATION RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING, BUT ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES HAD NOT ACCEPTED THAT POINT OF VIEW AND OPPOSED THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PLO. "WE WILL TRY TO FIND A WAY OUT OF THE DILEMMA AND A FORMULA WHICH WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO CONVENE THE CONFERENCE", HE SAID.

ASKED WHETHER THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT BELIEVED IT COULD TALK TO THE ISRAELIS BEFORE THEIR ELECTIONS, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL REPLIED: "THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT THEMSELVES HAVE TOLD ME, AND TO MY KNOWLEDGE THEY HAVE MADE A PUBLIC STATEMENT IN THIS REGARD, THAT THEIR ELECTIONS SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THE EFFORTS TO RESUME THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS."

WOULD HE DESCRIBE THE EGYPTIAN POSITION AS FLEXIBLE?

"I WOULD SAY THAT THE EGYPTIAN POSITION IS FIRM AS FAR AS THE SUBSTANCE IS CONCERNED AND AS FAR AS PRINCIPLES ARE CONCERNED. IT IS FLEXIBLE IN REGARD TO THE METHODS WHICH WE SHOULD ADOPT IN ORDER TO HAVE CHANCE TO RECONVENE THE CONFERENCE."

ASKED WHETHER HE HAD THE FEELING THE AMERICANS DID NOT WANT HIM TO PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN THE CONVENING OF THE CONFERENCE, MR. WALDHEIM REPLIED "NO" ADDING THAT HE HAD HAD TALKS WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH CO-CHAIRMEN AND THAT THE CO-CHAIRMEN WERE SUPPORTING HIS MISSION. "I THINK EVERYBODY IS INTERESTED THAT SOMETHING REASONABLE COMES OUT OF IT, BECAUSE IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF PEACE IN THE AREA."

ASKED WHETHER HE WAS GOING TO INVITE LEBANON TO PARTICIPATE  
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IN THE CONFERENCE, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SAID LEBANON HAD INDICATED ITS INTEREST TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FUTURE NEGOTIATING PROCESS, AND THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. "THE FINAL DECISION WILL HAVE TO BE MADE BY THE CONFERENCE ITSELF", HE ADDED. WOULD AN INVITATION TO THE PLO COME FROM THE CONFERENCE, THE CO-CHAIRMEN OR FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL? "THE INVITATION WILL HAVE TO COME FROM THE CONFERENCE, ALTHOUGH, HERE, THERE ARE DIFFERENT OPINIONS", HE SAID. "I HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO OVERCOME THESE DIFFICULTIES AND TO WORK OUT A REASONABLE FORMULA."

SINCE THE PLO HAD SAID OFFICIALLY THAT IT REFUSED TO GO TO GENEVA UNDER SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242, HOW COULD THAT BE OVERCOME? THE SECRETARY-GENERAL REPLIED: "THERE ARE MANY OTHER POINTS WHICH ARE NOT CLEAR AND WHICH CREATE DIFFICULTIES FOR THE RECONVENING OF THE CONFERENCE. AND THE PURPOSE OF MY VISIT IS TO DISCUSS THOSE PROBLEMS. I SHALL MEET WITH CHAIRMAN ARAFAT IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO CLARIFYING THESE OPEN QUESTIONS."

DID HE FEEL IT NECESSARY THAT THE PLO RECOGNIZE THE ISRAELI STATE AS A CONDITION FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE CONFERENCE, OR COULD HE AVOID THAT KIND OF DIFFICULTY? "AS YOU KNOW", MR. WALDHEIM REPLIED, "ISRAEL HAS MADE REPEATED REFERENCE TO THIS QUESTION, THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION. SO, THIS OF COURSE TOUCHES UPON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MATTER. FOR INSTANCE, THE CREATION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE ON THE WEST BANK AND IN GAZA. THIS IS SOMETHING WHICH HAS BEEN VERY MUCH IN THE FOREGROUND LATELY. BUT THESE ARE MATTERS WHICH HAVE TO BE DECIDED BY THE CONFERENCE ITSELF. THIS IS NOT THE PROCEDURAL

ASPECT."

ASKED TO COMMENT ON HIS VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA, THE SECRETARY-  
GENERAL STATED THAT SAUDI ARABIA WAS PLAYING A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE  
IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS AND IN REGARD TO THE SITUATION IN  
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THE MIDDLE EAST.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL HAS ANOTHER MEETING WITH FOREIGN  
MINISTER FAHMY YESTERDAY EVENING BEFORE GOING TO THE PRIME  
MINISTER'S DINNER.

END TEXT. UNQUOTE.  
BENNETT

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